
WATERLINES

News affecting the management and use of Indiana's water resources

DIVISION OF WATER
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SPRING-SUMMER 2002

MAY 2002 FLOODING TRIGGERS PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION FOR DISASTER

Federal disaster aid was made available for Indiana to supplement recovery efforts in central and southern parts of the state struck by storms and flooding in the latter part of May. Damage was significant enough to qualify for a Presidential declaration. On June 13, 2002, President George W. Bush authorized assistance under a major disaster declaration issued for the State. The declaration covers damage to private and public property from severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that occurred over the period of April 28 through June 7, 2002.

Flooding had damaged numerous roads, culverts, and bridges. Several homes in the Indianapolis area were inundated with flood waters and many more in other areas of central and southern Indiana. The rains flooded numerous basements.

The counties of Hamilton, Marion, Martin, Posey, Vigo, Dubois, Pike, Gibson, Montgomery, Parke, Putnam, Owen, Johnson, Greene, Knox, Washington, Jefferson, Clay, Dearborn, Orange, and Perry were designated eligible for aid to stricken residents and business owners. The assistance, coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, emergency

home repairs, and other serious disaster-related expenses. Assistance in the form of low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration was also made available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Federal funds were also made available for State and local governments to pay 75 percent of the eligible costs for restoring damaged public facilities in the counties of Brown, Crawford, Dearborn, Dubois, Franklin, Gibson, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Martin, Montgomery, Ohio, Orange, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Putman, Sullivan, Switzerland, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, and Washington. The declaration also makes cost-shared funding available to the state for approved projects that reduce future disaster risks. ~~~

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PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM (PDM)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has long been promoting disaster resistant construction and retrofit of facilities that are vulnerable to hazards in order to reduce potential damages due to a hazard event. The goal is to reduce loss of life, human suffering, economic disruption, and disaster costs to the Federal taxpayer. This has been, and continues to be, accomplished through a variety of programs and grant funds.

Although the overall intent is to reduce vulnerability **before** the next disaster threatens, the bulk of the funding for such projects actually has been delivered through a “post-disaster” funding mechanism, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This program has successfully addressed the many hazard mitigation opportunities uniquely available following a disaster; however, funding of projects “pre-disaster” has been more difficult. In an effort to address “pre-disaster mitigation”, FEMA piloted a program from 1997-2001 entitled “Project Impact” that was community based and multi-hazard oriented.

Through the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Congress approved the creation of a national pre-disaster hazard mitigation program to provide a funding mechanism that is not dependent on a Presidential declaration. For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2002, \$25 million has been appropriated for the new grant program entitled the **Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)**. This new program builds on the experience gained from Project Impact, the HMGP, and other mitigation initiatives.

Here are the high points of the FFY 2002 **PDM** program:

- The program will be administered by each State, with a base allocation of \$250,000, and additional funds provided via a population formula.

- Eligible projects include:
 - ◆ State and local hazard mitigation planning
 - ◆ Technical assistance (e.g. risk assessments, project development)
 - ◆ Mitigation Projects
 - Acquisition or relocation of vulnerable properties
 - Hazard retrofits
 - Minor structural hazard control or protection projects
 - ◆ Community outreach and education (up to 10% of State allocation)
- The emphasis for FFY 2002 will be on mitigation planning, to help localities meet the new planning requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act.
- Each state establishes grant selection criteria and priorities based on:
 - ◆ The State Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - ◆ The degree of commitment by the community to hazard mitigation
 - ◆ The cost effectiveness of the proposed project
 - ◆ The type and degree of hazard being addressed
 - ◆ For project grants, “good standing” of the community in the National Flood Insurance Program
- The funding is 75% Federal share, 25% non-Federal, except as noted below.
- The grant performance periods will be 18 months for planning grants and 24 months for mitigation project grants.
- The PDM program is available to regional agencies and Indian tribes
- Special accommodation will be made for “small and impoverished communities”, who will be eligible for 90% Federal share, 10% non-Federal.

For further information, contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Jan Crider, Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, at 317-232-3833 or e-mail at jcrider@sema.state.in.us.

*Information provided by FEMA, Region V ~

OBTAINING A FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION

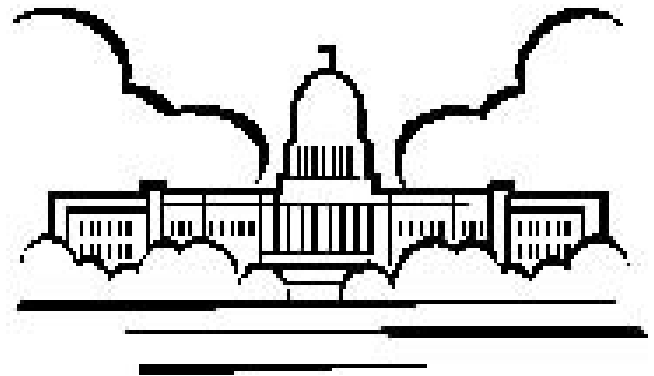
The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) authorizes the President to provide disaster assistance to State and local governments, certain non-profit organizations, and individuals following a Federal Disaster declaration. (42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.) The Stafford Act describes the declaration process, the types and scope of assistance, and the eligibility requirements.

Only a Governor of a State can request that the President declare a Federal Disaster. The key steps in the declaration process are as follows:

- ◆ A team of Federal, State and local officials must conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment to estimate whether the extent of damages warrants a declaration
- ◆ The Governor must make the request, based on a finding that the damages are of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of State and affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. The Governor must make the request through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional office. The request should include:
 - Information on the nature and amount of resources the State and its local governments have and will use to alleviate the emergency
 - Certification that State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act
 - Estimates of types and amount of Federal disaster assistance required
 - Designation of a Governor's Authorized Representative and the State Coordination Officer to coordinate response and recovery operations for the Governor

There are several steps at the Federal level once a Disaster request is made. They include:

- designation of an appropriate Federal official as the Federal coordinating officer
- evaluation of the request by a FEMA Regional Director
- a recommendation by the FEMA Regional Director to the Director of FEMA
- a recommendation by the Director of FEMA on a course of action to the President
- declaration of Federal Disaster by the President



When the President declares a Federal Disaster, disaster assistance becomes available. The type of disaster assistance may vary depending on the type and extent of damage. For example, some communities may only qualify for “Public Assistance” which is for the purpose of restoring damaged public facilities. Some communities may also qualify for “Individual Assistance”, which would make aid available to stricken residents and business owners. The Stafford Act defines the types and scope of Federal disaster assistance. It sets the conditions for obtaining that assistance. A Presidential Executive Order delegates primary responsibility for administering disaster relief programs to the Director of FEMA. ≈

CONFERENCE CORNER

INAFSM Annual Conference

The Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) will hold its 6th Annual Meeting and Conference on September 11-13, 2002 at The Turkey Run Inn in beautiful Turkey Run State Park, Marshall, Indiana.

The 3-day conference will feature informative sessions on various aspects of stormwater and floodplain management with speakers from the private sector as well as Federal and State government. The Certified Floodplain Manager's Exam will again be offered at the conference (advance registration required).

For more information regarding the 2002 Annual Meeting and Conference, visit www.inafsm.org. Keep checking the website as conference information will be updated regularly. ☺

NEW MT-EZ FORM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has recently revised the MT-EZ form. The new MT-EZ form (FEMA form 81-92 Series, May 2002) is an application form for single residential lot or structure amendments to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps. The amendment to an NFIP map is commonly referred to as a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA).

A LOMA is a letter from FEMA stating that an existing structure or parcel of land that has **not** been elevated by fill (i.e. the existing structure or parcel of land is on natural grade) would not be inundated by the base flood. Fill is defined as material placed to raise the ground to or above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The common construction practice of removing unsuitable existing material (topsoil) and backfilling with select structural material is not considered the placement of fill if the practice does not alter the

existing (natural ground) elevation. Fill placed before the date of the first NFIP map, showing the area in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), is considered natural ground.

The previous MT-EZ form was for application for either a LOMA **or** a Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F) for single lots or single structures. Applicants seeking a LOMR-F for a house (single structure) built on fill will no longer be able to use the MT-EZ form. Requests involving the placement of fill will be required to use the MT-1 and MT-2 forms, as appropriate.

Users will find that the new form provides a comprehensive, step-by-step process to follow. This process provides the requester with assurance that all necessary information to support their request is submitted to FEMA at one time. The new MT-EZ form and instructions can be downloaded off the FEMA web site at http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/dl_mt-ez.htm for the English version, or http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/dl_mt-sp.htm for the Spanish version. For additional assistance in completing the MT-EZ form, requestors can also consult the LOMA Tutorial, available on FEMA's Internet site at: http://www.fema.gov/mit/tsd/ot_main.htm. ☺



THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

Past flood disasters should teach us that our communities need to know which areas in their communities are most at risk. They need to be prepared to reap the benefits of programs created to assist **following a major disaster declaration**. Under the recent Presidential Disaster Declaration, funds are currently available for Indiana under the HMGP. The HMGP is an increasingly important element in post-flood risk reduction through acquisition, relocation, or retrofitting of structures, and dedication of acquired properties to community open space uses. Indiana communities have the opportunity to vie for the currently available funding in this program.

The HMGP was created in November 1988, by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The HMGP assists States and local communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. In December 1993, the President signed the Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act, which amends Section 404 to increase Federal funding of HMGP projects to 75 percent of the project's total eligible costs.

What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?
The Program's objectives are:

- To prevent future losses of lives and property due to disasters;
- To implement State or local Hazard Mitigation plans;
- To enable mitigation measures to be implemented during immediate recovery from a disaster; and
- To provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures that benefit the disaster area.

Who is eligible? Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are:

- State and local governments;
- Certain private non-profit organizations or institutions; and
- Indian tribes or authorized tribal organizations and Alaska Native villages or organizations.

What types of projects can be funded? The HMGP can be used to fund projects to protect either public or private property. Examples of projects include:

- Structural hazard control, such as debris basins or floodwalls;
- Retrofitting, such as floodproofing, to protect structures from future damage;
- Acquisition and relocation of structures from hazard-prone areas; and
- Development of State or local standards to protect new and substantially improved structures from disaster damage.

How do I apply? Eligible applicants must apply for the HMGP through the State, as the State is responsible for administering the Program. The applicant should contact the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for specific details. Every State must develop a Hazard Mitigation Administrative Plan that explains the State's procedures for administering the HMGP.

What is the deadline for applying for funds? The State must submit a letter of intent to FEMA to participate in the HMGP within 60 days of the disaster declaration. **Applications for mitigation projects are encouraged as soon as possible after the disaster occurs so that opportunities to do mitigation are not lost during reconstruction.** All new project proposals must be submitted for approval within 90 days after FEMA approves the State's hazard mitigation plan for the disaster. You should contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer for specific application dates.

How much money is available in the HMGP? FEMA can fund up to 75% of the eligible costs of each project. The State or local match does not

need to be cash; in-kind services or materials may be used. With the passage of the Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Assistance Act of 1993, Federal funding under the HMGP is based on 15% of the Federal funds spent on the Public and Individual Assistance programs (minus administrative expenses) for each disaster. However, under the “Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000”, Congress authorized increasing the amount to be available for the HMGP from 15% to 20% of the total disaster cost. This increase is dependent on a state having an acceptable mitigation plan that demonstrates interest and intent to track the effectiveness of projects.

How are potential projects identified and selected for funding? The State’s administrative plan governs how projects are selected for funding. However, proposed projects must meet certain minimum criteria. These criteria are designed to ensure that the most cost-effective and appropriate projects are selected for funding. Both the law and the regulations require that the projects are part of an overall mitigation strategy for the disaster area. The HMGP is voluntary on the part of the community (and individuals); the program is competitive; and, there is no guarantee of approval or funding.

How does the HMGP differ from mitigation funded under the Public Assistance Program? Mitigation projects may also be identified and funded through FEMA’s Public Assistance Program after a disaster declaration. Public Assistance funds allow an existing damaged facility to incorporate mitigation measures during repairs, if the measures are cost-effective or are required by code. These potential measures can be identified by FEMA, the State, or the local applicant.

Mitigation funded under Public Assistance is only for public or private property, so long as these measures fit within the overall mitigation strategy for the disaster area and comply with program guidelines.

Where can I obtain further information? Regulations for the HMGP are published in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 206, Subpart N. Detailed information about applying for and managing the Program can be found in FEMA’s HMGP Interim Guidance handbook.

For copies of the handbook or further information, contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Jan Crider of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency. She can be reached by phone at 317-232-3833 or e-mail at jcrider@sema.state.in.us. ☞

WHAT’S NEW AT THE FEMA MAP STORE

The FEMA Flood Map Store is offering more than ever. Go to www.FEMA.gov and check it out. The FEMA issued flood maps – Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHBMs) – have been scanned as TIFF files. These products are offered for viewing online individually for free. Customers can also download an image viewer (F-MIT) at no cost directly from the web site, which enables them to create a “FIRMette” – a section of the map at 100% scale that can be printed on standard paper sizes. NICE! ☞

PRECIPITATION REPORT FOR JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2002

2002 began rather tranquil with most of Indiana experiencing below normal precipitation. Not until the end of January did any significant amount of precipitation fall. Rain during the last three days of January resulted in flooding of some rivers in northern Indiana.

February snowfall in Indianapolis was on a record setting pace through the 25th. For the first time in 50 years, only a trace had been reported. Snowfall on the 26th and 27th was the greatest for the winter season at that point. Nearly 6 inches fell at Fort Wayne and almost 17 inches fell at South Bend.

As the spring season began in March, the weather was very active. Frequent rains across much of Indiana and melting frozen precipitation from a late winter storm kept rivers high throughout the month. Monthly snowfall ranged from a trace to more than 10 inches, and rainfall totals ranged from 3 to nearly 8 inches.



Most of Indiana experienced above normal rainfall during April. Rain of 2 to nearly 4 inches on the 13th and 14th of April in southern Indiana caused lowland flooding along rivers in that area. This rain would mark the beginning of a month and a half of flooding in southwest Indiana along the White and Wabash Rivers. Heavy rains returned to portions of southwest Indiana early on May 6th. Storms developed from the 6th through the 8th in much of central and southern Indiana causing flash flooding and extensive small stream flooding. Rainfall of 1 to 3 inches was common. Rainfall during this period produced extensive flooding of the White, East Fork White, and Wabash Rivers in southern Indiana.

For the White and Wabash Rivers in southwest Indiana, heavy rains on May 12 and 13 came at the worst possible time. Extensive flooding was already in progress from previous rains and soils were wet. The rain didn't have anywhere to go except directly into streams and very swollen rivers.

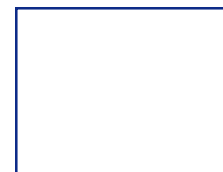
The resulting flood levels were the highest in 41 years at New Harmony and the highest in 52 years at Mount Carmel. The extensive flooding upstream in the Wabash River Basin allowed these crests to be maintained for about a week. Because of the relentless rains from April 21st through May 13th, many locations along major rivers remained above flood stage for more than 3 weeks.

According to the State Climatologist, the average state rainfall for the period March 1 through May 13 set a record based on 107 years of observations. For this period, much of central and southern Indiana received more than 15 inches of rain with some areas receiving more than 22 inches. Rainfall greatly subsided after May 13.

Rainfall during June varied greatly across the state. Monthly totals ranged from slightly over 1 inch up to 8 inches. The greatest rainfall of the month in Indiana occurred in downtown Fort Wayne. Rain of 4 to 8 inches fell during the evening of the 26th and early morning of the 27th in downtown Fort Wayne resulting in flash flooding within the City. Hundreds of motorists were stranded as underpasses and streets were flooded. Four miles of I-69 near the Illinois Road exit was completely flooded, forcing its temporary closure. ☁

Locations	<div><div></div><div>KEY:</div><div><div>ACTUAL (INCHES)</div><div>NORMAL (INCHES)</div></div><div></div></div>						Totals 2002
	January	February	March	April	May	June	
CHICAGO IL	1.20	.96	2.73	3.00	4.39	4.61	16.89
	1.75	1.63	2.65	3.68	3.38	3.63	16.72
SOUTH BEND IN	2.48	2.10	2.77	3.40	5.75	1.26	17.76
	2.27	1.98	2.89	3.62	3.50	4.06	18.32
FORT WAYNE IN	2.56	1.80	2.56	3.70	6.29	3.13	20.04
	2.05	1.94	2.86	3.54	3.75	3.91	18.05
INDIANAPOLIS IN	2.48	1.67	4.22	5.47	7.46	3.11	24.41
	2.48	2.41	3.44	3.61	4.36	4.13	20.43
EVANSVILLE IN	3.68	0.74	6.20	8.58	5.70	2.87	27.77
	2.91	3.10	4.29	4.48	5.01	4.10	23.89
LOUISVILLE KY	4.14	1.47	7.02	6.02	6.74	4.10	29.49
	3.79	3.25	4.41	3.91	4.88	3.76	23.49
CINCINNATI OH	2.33	1.81	4.60	5.97	8.03	3.56	26.30
	1.74	2.75	3.90	3.96	4.59	4.42	21.36

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER
402 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W264
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2641



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Editor - Anita Nance

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Division of Water
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2641
Phone: (317)232-4160
Toll free 1-877-WATER55

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